



Washington D.C.
Camp, Idwaver
Saturday
Oct 5th
1861

My Dear Friend
it is with pleasure that
I write this letter to you
I received your letter one
Aug 28th & one Oct 2^d glad
to hear from you but you
must excuse me for not
writing before for when
I have had time I have
had postage till the other
day it was paid off. Sept
20th I got \$27.30 was paid
of from the 20th of June
up to the 1st of Sept
got \$5.00 in U.S. Bills or
Treasurer's notes & \$11.00 in
gold & the rest in silver.

I shall send it most all home. I got a letter from Charles Oct 2^d the same day that I got yours we left Camp Lyon Sept 3^d Crossed the river in to Virginia where we now remain. we built a Fort & it is named Fort Measey they built another one on the hill south of us it is Fort Ethan Allen it is a big one. we marched up to Buinskill Sept 11th with 2 or 3 other Reg^{ts} & some Cavalry with 5 or 6 pieces of Artillery in order to survey the ground. after this we got our forces to gether & just started ~~was~~ as the rebels at the right with 3 guns threw shells in ahead in order to cut off our march so to charge on us in the rear

but we marched on to our home. I got a letter from Camp there shells having but little effect as they went over one stake in C. O. killing 2 men & men slightly wounded but our batteries come to bail them one piece was a 32 pounder brass piece that done the business it threw one shell or ball that dismounted one of the rebels guns & silenced their battery I guess for they spiked the re guns & left and throwing 2 or 3 shells in to the approaching Cavalry and the remainder of them left then we kept on to Camp meeting reinforcements. you have seen an account of this in the papers I suppose our forces last was small while that of the

Rebels was quite a number
not have to work pretty
hard we have to go on picket
guard most every day some of
us the day that we was paid
of we had to go on picket
next day we come if we
had to march up to Slungly
on the road to Lein rail
before supper went of in to
the field staid there a bout
half an hour dont know what
for unless it was to prot-
ect the Surveyers if
they was surveying any where
then we come back to
Camp got our supper and
about 11 o'clock in the night
marched up toward Falls
Church we had got near there
when a shower of bullets come
thicker & faster but fell
short of us our caverly took
them to be rebels & fired
in to them first Continued

Y. M. M. P. 137 Camp Lein rail 1862
I predicted that Gen Price & have got postage on hand

next sheet

JOHN WAITE RARE BOOKS

FINE BOOKS, MANUSCRIPTS, AND EPHEMERA

BOUGHT, SOLD, AND APPRAISED

Soldier narrative of the "Lewinsville skirmish" in which the 2nd & 3rd Vermont Regiments first taste combat

(CIVIL WAR - LETTER) *Four page holograph letter, not signed, to "My Dear Friend" from Camp Advance near Washington D. C. dated October 5, 1861.*

Single cream sheet with pictorial figure; folded once vertically to make four pages; written in ink recto and verso; small hole at upper left with loss of one word; else near fine.

An unknown Vermont soldier writes to a friend about early action in the war: "You must excuse me for not writing before for when I had have time & hant had postage till the other day. We was paid off Sept. 27th. I got \$27.30 was paid up from the 20th of June up to the 1st of Sept. Got \$15.00 in U. S. Bills or Treasurer's Noats [sic] & \$10.00 in gold & the rest in Silver. I shall send it most all home. I got a letter from Charles Oct. 2nd. The same day that I got yours we left Camp Lyon Sept. 3rd crost [sic] the river in to Virginia where we now remain. We built a Fort & it is name Fort Masey. They built another one on the hill south of us it is Fort Ethan Allen. It is a big one. We marched up to Lewinsville Sept. 11th with 2 or 3 other Regts. & some cavalry with 5 or 6 pieces of Artillery in order to survey the grounds. After this we got our Forces together & just started as the rebels at the right with 3 guns threw shells in ahead in order to cut off our march so to charge on us in the rear but we marched on to Camp there [sic] shells having but little efect [sic] as they went over. One [struck] in Co. O [?] killing 2 men and 6 men slightly wounded but our batteries come... on them. One piece was a 32 pounder brass piece. That done the business. It threw one shell or Ball that dismounted one of the rebels guns & silenced there [sic] battery I gess [sic] for they picked there [sic] guns & left and throwing 2 or 3 shells into the approaching Cavalry and the commander of them left. Then we kept on to Camp meeting reinforcements. You have seen an account of this in the papers & suppose our forces loss was small while that of the rebels was quite a number." The letter continues with the beginning of an account of another engagement, but the second sheet is lost. The 2nd and 3rd Vermont regiments moved from Camp Lyon to Camp Advance on the date supplied in the narrative above. The Lewinsville skirmish (as it became known) represented the first "baptism by fire" for both Vermont regiments - one of which, presumably, the unknown writer must have belonged. \$200.00

MEMBER ABAA

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